

State University of New York College at Buffalo - Buffalo State College

Digital Commons at Buffalo State

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church

Church Collections

1900

Newspaper; Poles Parade Today at Laying of New Church Cornerstone

Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/abvmc>



Part of the [History Commons](#)

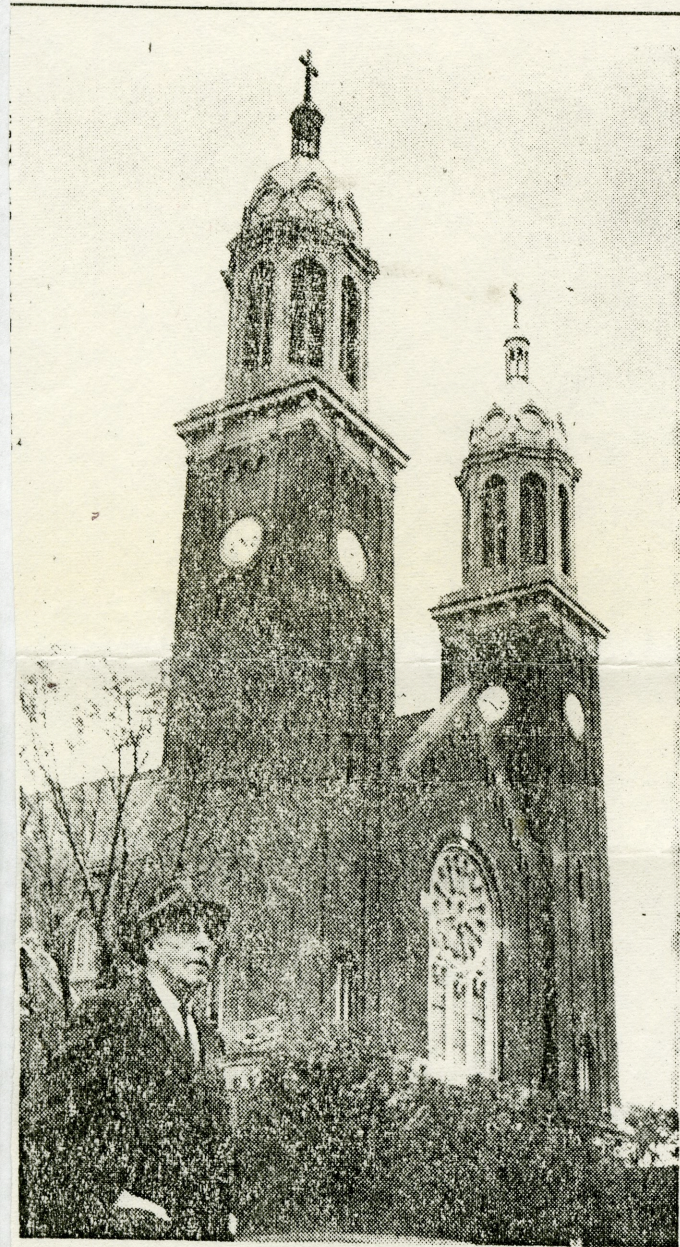
Recommended Citation

"Newspaper; Poles Parade Today at Laying of New Church Cornerstone." Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church. Monroe Fordham Regional History Center. Archives & Special Collections Department, E. H. Butler Library, SUNY Buffalo State. <https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/abvmc/3>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Church Collections at Digital Commons at Buffalo State. It has been accepted for inclusion in Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary Church by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons at Buffalo State. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@buffalostate.edu.

D EVENING NEWS

Metropolitan Page



ARCHITECT KARL G. SCHMILL AT ASSUMPTION CHURCH

Architect Shares in Beauty He Created as Young Man

Karl Schmill Sees Assumption Church
Towers From Home on Lincoln Pkwy.

From his Lincoln Pkwy. home, Karl G. Schmill needs only look westward to observe his contribution to local architecture.

Towering 150 feet above street level, Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Church at 435 Amherst St. is easily the most striking feature of the Black Rock skyline.

It is a thing of beauty, especially when silhouetted against the setting sun. This is the way Mr. Schmill frequently sees the church as he pulls into his driveway at 320 Lincoln after a full day in his office in the Sidway

parish and community functions has been converted into a gymnasium for use, not only by the school, but by adults in the parish.

He plans to keep the gym open evenings for individual and group use and to encourage such activity as basketball, volleyball, judo and even wrestling.

Brought Back Painting

"We have just the man in Father John here to take charge of that," Msgr. Bogacki said.

He referred to his assistant, the Rev. John D. Lewandowski, who had 250 bouts as a profes-

Bldg.

The sight stirs an unspoken pride and many fond memories for Mr. Schmill, now 78.

"I shudder," Mr. Schmill adds, "when I think that I had the nerve to undertake the job."

Senior Partner at 27

Assumption was the first church that Mr. Schmill and his younger brother, the late William, undertook after the death of their father, Carl, who had won a reputation for church architecture during his 40-year career.

Mr. Schmill and his brother had been confined to the routine chores of an architect's office. Now Mr. Schmill, at 27, was senior partner. The Assumption pastor came to the Schmills because of their late father's reputation.

"He said he had known and trusted my father and that he felt he could trust us," Mr. Schmill said.

Mr. Schmill recalled the many distinctive features he included in the design of the building, such as outsize, custom-made brick to provide proper proportion for the large wall surfaces and the use of giant, ten-by-ten-foot Medina sandstone slabs for the platform in front of the church entrances.

Distinctive Bells

Mr. Schmill noted the pastor wanted the church to be of "cathedral proportions."

He recalled also that the church wanted distinctive bells and 14 specially cast ones were finally purchased at a cost of \$15,000.

The cornerstone was put in place on the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin—on Aug. 15, 1914—and the church, despite its monumental size and unusual features, was in use just a year later.

Mr. Schmill can recall only one snag in construction.

"There was a strike of stonecutters and it seemed like we would not have the cornerstone ready for the ceremony which everyone wanted to be on that feast day," Mr. Schmill said. "We finally got a cemetery-monument worker to do the work."

New Era of Service

The church has been a center of community activity since the parish was founded by 36 families in 1888.

Now it is moving into a new era of parish and community services under its pastor, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Maximillian T. Bogacki.

Msgr. Bogacki reported the parish is concluding a \$500,000 improvement program, which has resulted in the conversion of the dingy, dungeon-like church basement into a sparkling community hall seating 1300; installation of a new heating plant, sandblasting and pointing of the church and school structures, and providing additional facilities for group activities.

He noted that the third-floor school hall formerly used for

sional wrestler, under the name of John Levans, while attending Niagara University.

Plans are also under way to convert the area between the church structures and Sciacquada Creek to the south into a shrine to the Blessed Virgin. This will include an altar on an octagonal, glass-enclosed base and stations of the cross along the creek bank.

Msgr. Bogacki said he already has one item for the shrine—a replica of the painting of the Blessed Virgin to be found in the Polish National Shrine in Czeszochowa. Msgr. Bogacki brought it back with him from a recent trip to Poland.

Msgr. Bogacki said there are some trust funds available for the shrine and that work may get under way on it in the next year or two.